

[Serial No. 09/684,927]

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a thermally transferable protective layer releasably provided on at least a part of the surface of the substrate sheet opposite to the heat-resistant slip layer side, the protective layer comprising a main protective layer and an adhesive layer provided in that order from the substrate sheet side, the adhesive layer containing from 3 to 10% of microsilica based on a resin solid matter in the adhesive layer, the coefficient of friction between the surface of the protective layer and the surface of an image-receiving sheet before thermal transfer being 0.05 to 0.5 in terms of μ_0 (coefficient of static friction) and μ (coefficient of dynamic friction) with the value of μ_0/μ being 1.0 to 1.5.

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Cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

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Amend claims 4, 5, and 8 as follows:

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4. (Amended) The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer contains from 3 to 5% of microsilica.

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5. (Amended) The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the particle diameter of the microsilica is 1 to 10 μm in terms of the average diameter of secondary particles as measured by a Coulter counter method.

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8. (Amended) The protective layer transfer sheet according to claim 1, further comprising a non-transferable release layer, and, upon thermal transfer, the release layer stays on the substrate sheet while the protective layer is separable from the substrate sheet.
